

*Montgomery County
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
2009 Annual Report*

September 15, 2009



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|---|------|
| 1. Membership List | 2 |
| 2. Mission Statement | 4 |
| 3. Term of Service, Schedule of Meetings | 4 |
| 4. Executive Summary | 6 |
| 5. Committee Reports | |
| a. Victim Services | 9 |
| b. Education and Outreach | 14 |
| c. Legislative and Policy Planning | 18 |
| 6. Recommendations | 21 |
| 7. Appendices | 25 |
| Appendix A: English Family Justice Center Brochure..... | 26 |
| Appendix B: Spanish Family Justice Center Brochure..... | 27 |
| Appendix C: Choose Respect Montgomery Conference Flyer..... | 28 |
| Appendix D: English Family Justice Center Bus Ad..... | 29 |
| Appendix E: Spanish Family Justice Center Bus Ad..... | 30 |
| Appendix F: Anger is False Power Bus Ad in Spanish and English..... | 31 |
| Appendix G: Domestic Violence Posters in Four Languages..... | 32 |
| Appendix H: DVCC Bills 23-05 and 26-09..... | 33 |

MEMBERSHIP

Ex-Officio Members

The Honorable Marielsa Bernard
Chair, DVCC
Associate Judge
Circuit Court for Montgomery County
For The Honorable Ann S. Harrington
Administrative Judge
Circuit Court for Montgomery County

The Honorable Eugene Wolfe
Administrative Judge
District Court for Montgomery County

The Honorable Phil Andrews
President
Montgomery County Council

Laura Chase
Deputy State's Attorney
For John J. McCarthy
Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office

Wayne Jerman
Assistant Chief of Police, Investigative Services Bureau
For J. Thomas Manger, Chief
Montgomery County Department of Police

Martha Kumer
Regional Administrator
Maryland Division of Parole and Probation

Resa Levy
Commissioner, Commission for Women
For Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Montgomery County Commission for Women

Hannah Sassoon
Domestic Violence Coordinator
For Raymond M. Kight, Sheriff
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

Sharon Trexler
*Chief, Montgomery County Pre-Trial Services
For Arthur M. Wallenstein, Director
Department of Correction and Rehabilitation*

Dudley Warner
*Senior Administrator, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services
For Uma Ahluwalia, Director
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services*

Public Members

*Bernard Auchter
Community Member*

*Dorothy Fait, Esq.
Community Member
Attorney at Law
Fait and Wise, LLP*

*Diane Hayes
Community Member*

*Susan C. Mize
Community Member
Vice Chair, DVCC*

*Donna Rismiller, Esq.
Attorney Member
Attorney at Law
Rismiller Law Group, LLC*

*Cynthia Mogel
Office of the Sheriff
Staff*

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Montgomery County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and create a safe community for families to live free of abuse.

TERM OF SERVICE

There are fifteen voting members of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council who serve without compensation and are confirmed by the County Council. Five are Ex-Officio members who serve at the request of the County Executive: the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court; the Administrative Judge of the District Court; the Sheriff; the State's Attorney; and the Regional Director for the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation. There are five Ex-Officio members who are appointed by the County Executive: a member of the County Council, the Directors of the Departments of Correction and Rehabilitation, Health and Human Services, Police, and the Commission for Women. In addition, there are five members of the general public appointed by the County Executive for three year terms, one of whom is an attorney representing domestic violence victims, and four who have a demonstrated interest in domestic violence issues, including at least one who is a former victim of domestic violence.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council meets bi-monthly on the second Thursday of the month and has met twenty times since September 2006. Meetings are open to the public.

The Domestic violence Coordinating Council re-elected as its Chair the Honorable Marielsa Bernard, Associate Judge, Circuit Court for Montgomery County and as Vice Chair, Susan C. Mize, community member.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the third year since its creation, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council has advanced its mission of reducing the incidence of domestic violence and creating a safe community where families are free of abuse. In 2008-2009 the three committees, Victim Services, Education and Outreach and Legislative and Policy Planning have each identified focus areas and made progress on executing recommendations from the previous report. This report summarizes the accomplishments of the past year, makes recommendations for the next and submits an action plan for each proposal.

Accomplishments:

- Coordinated a three day Family Justice Center (FJC) strategic planning session in September, 2008 with over 100 representatives from 30 county agencies and organizations in attendance;
- Sponsored and collaborated with multiple county agencies and organizations for the 1st Montgomery County Fatherhood Conference in November 2008
- Created the FJC Foundation 501 (3) (c), a non-profit corporation, to help support the FJC through varied community education and fundraising efforts;
- Coordinated a two day follow up FJC Strategic Planning Session Part 2 in February, 2009;
- Soft opening of Montgomery County's FJC in April 2009, with a Grand Opening on May 18, 2009;
- Developed and Implemented a Healthy Teen Dating Curriculum Pilot Program for Montgomery County Public Schools;
- Implemented the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) throughout Montgomery County
- Created FJC brochures in English and Spanish for distribution to public and community partners;
- Developed FJC Foundation Website <http://www.mcfjcfoundation.org/>;
- Developed FJC website www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc;
- Coordinated Summer Camp Programs with Rockville City and Montgomery County Department of Recreation to benefit children residing in shelter and participating in the Safe Start counseling program;
- Organized an Earth Day Volunteer Event at FJC;

- Established the Pro Bono Lawyers Initiative Program to refer domestic violence victims to pro bono attorneys for representation at protective order hearings;
- Created Bus Cards in English and Spanish to increase awareness of the FJC among victims of domestic violence and the community;
- Participated in Law Day, April 2009 to promote awareness of the FJC among attorneys practicing in Montgomery County;
- Initiated planning for October 2009 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Conference to raise awareness about healthy teen dating relationships and warning signs of potentially abusive relationships;
- Continued distribution of Domestic Violence Posters in coordination with the Montgomery County Office of Liquor Control;
- Continued outreach to domestic violence offenders through the English and Spanish bus card campaign;
- Continued airing of Domestic Violence Public Service Announcement in English and Spanish through Montgomery County Municipal Cable;
- Collaborated with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations and the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence on numerous bills in the 2009 Maryland General Assembly including:
 - **SB 267/HB 296** Protective Order- Surrender of Firearms;
 - **SB 268/HB 302** Temporary Protective Order- Surrender of Firearms;
 - **HB98** Domestic Violence-Temporary Protective Orders-Extension; and
 - **HB 845/SB 1049** Domestic Violence Awareness “Tween/Teen Dating Violence Education and Awareness.
- Introduced and supported Bill 26-09, Domestic Violence Coordinating Council-Membership.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEXT YEAR:

- Collaboration among FJC agency partners, FJC Foundation and community volunteers for ongoing sustainability and effective operation of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center;
- Collaboration with county schools on widespread implementation of the Healthy Teen Dating Curriculum;
- Increase awareness and expansion of services for child witnesses of domestic violence;
- Continuation of programs for outreach and education to the immigrant community on domestic violence issues;
- Review of policies and practices to increase offender accountability.

VICTIM SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chair: Hannah Sassoon

The Victim Services Committee has been active in developing and putting into practice the following 4 objectives:

1. Planning for the spring 2009 opening of the Family Justice Center;
2. Establishing the FJC Foundation 501 (c) (3);
3. Developing a pro-bono lawyer's initiative for domestic violence victims ;
4. Implementing a Kid's Camp program for child witnesses of domestic violence.

The following is a summary of projects the committee has completed in 2008-2009 to meet these priorities:

1. Planning for the spring 2009 opening of the Family Justice Center;

Family Justice Center

The Victim Services Committee fulfilled a very significant goal in April 2009 when Montgomery County's Family Justice Center officially opened at 600 Jefferson Street in Rockville. The site, centrally located in the county near the courts and public transportation, brings together numerous critical services for domestic violence victims and their children. Prior to its opening, domestic violence services were fragmented across the county, making it incredibly difficult for victims seeking assistance for the violence in their lives to navigate.

The FJC model has been identified as a "best practice" for reducing domestic violence by the US Department of Justice. Other Family Justice Centers around the United States have proven their effectiveness through reduction in domestic violence homicides, improved victim cooperation with law enforcement and criminal case prosecution and increased victim independence and empowerment.

Montgomery County's Family Justice Center is one of only 40 in existence nationally and internationally. The mission of the county's FJC is to promote safety, well-being and healing for victims of family violence. In order to carry out that mission and create short and long term sustainability, critical strategic planning sessions were developed to support the successful operation of the FJC. The following section provides information about the planning phases over the last year and the current status of the FJC.

Strategic Planning Session I:

September 21st – 23rd, 2008 marked the initial strategic planning session for Montgomery County's Family Justice Center. Casey Gwinn, President of the Family Justice Center Alliance and founder of San Diego's FJC was present with Judi Adams from the Family Justice Center Alliance to facilitate the planning sessions. Over 100 representatives from 30 county agencies and organizations joined together to draft a one year and five year plan for Montgomery County's Family Justice Center. The

overall vision for the FJC was created and committees with identified leaders and tasks were developed. The Operations, Facilities and Resource committees were the work groups established during the initial planning session.

Strategic Planning Session II:

Strategic Planning Session Part 2 took place early in February, 2009. Gael Strack, CEO of the Family Justice Center Alliance and former Director of the San Diego Family Justice Center led the planning meetings. The goal of the follow-up session was to review the group's vision for the FJC, hear committee progress reports, and identify what has been learned through the planning process and plan for the target date opening of the FJC.

Current Status of the FJC:

Montgomery County's Family Justice Center had a soft opening in April, 2009 and celebrated a Grand Opening on May 18, 2009. On-site partners at the FJC include the Office of the Sheriff, Office of the State's Attorney, Health and Human Service's Abused Persons Program, House of Ruth, Catholic Charities and the STTAR Center. Additional off-site partners include Montgomery County Departments of Police, Commission for Women, Office of Community Partnerships and Correction and Rehabilitation, Maryland Department of Child Enforcement, Safe Start Counseling for Child Witnesses of Domestic Violence, Interfaith Community Against Domestic Violence and the Child Assessment Center.

Domestic Violence victims seeking services at the FJC can receive an array of services to include:

- Safety Planning
- Legal Advocacy
- Legal Representation for Civil Protective Orders
- Counseling for victims and their children
- Immigration Consultation
- Criminal Investigation
- Emergency Protective Order
- Shelter Placement
- Referral to Safe Haven for pets
- Child Assessment Services

These services are provided in a safe and comfortable environment. Snacks are available in the family area and a fully equipped playroom is accessible to children visiting the FJC.

To date over 500 victims have received services at Montgomery County's FJC. Primary services sought at the FJC include advocacy with protective orders and counseling. The FJC was fortunate to secure a partnership with STTAR Center, a not for profit organization, to provide long term counseling to victims at no cost to the county other than office space. Surveys distributed to each FJC client upon the conclusion of their visit indicate overwhelmingly that victims are very pleased with the coordinated services

received at the FJC. The following are some comments made by victims regarding their visit to the FJC:

- I am grateful for the support I got here.
- People were very warm and made me feel comfortable.
- I am so happy with the service. They provided me good information.
- Came in with little hope, left feeling relieved.
- I am so glad the Crisis Center referred me to FJC. I feel safer.
- Thank you for making the process so easy.
- Everyone made a difficult situation easy to navigate.
- I am grateful for this agency's concern and help for all individuals who are and have the same and different abuse problems. This county has and is providing safe environments and a sense of well being to function as a healthy citizen of Montgomery County.

Video Conferencing from the FJC to the Courts for Protective Orders

Chief Judge Robert M. Bell of the Maryland Court of Appeals issued an Administrative Order permitting the use of video conferencing for ex-parte, temporary Protective Orders as part of a pilot program in Montgomery County. The courts workgroup created at the September strategic planning session has developed a plan for submission to the court. Verizon Wireless Foundation provided a grant of \$60,000 to the FJC Foundation for the video equipment that will be used.

FJC Brochures

FJC brochures in both English and Spanish (Appendices A & B) were created. Over 30,000 copies were printed and distributed to county agencies and organizations, law enforcement offices and throughout the community to raise awareness of the newly opened FJC. The brochures are very colorful and include a photo of the FJC building, several photos of individuals and subtle butterflies for decoration. Specific information regarding eligibility for services at the FJC is included in the brochure. Available on-site services as well as community partners are detailed in the brochure. The location hours of operation and answers to frequently asked questions are also included.

FJC Website

A website for the Family Justice Center was created to provide comprehensive information to victims, service providers and the public in general about the services available at the FJC.

The FJC website can be accessed through Montgomery County's main page or directly at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc. In addition to providing information about the FJC concept, it contains a wide range of information including:

- The goals, mission and core values of the FJC
- Services provided at the FJC and links to the providers' websites
- Signs of an abusive relationship
- Tips to stay safe in an abusive relationship
- Answers to frequently asked questions

- FJC contact information, location and a link to obtain directions to the center.

2. Establishing the FJC Foundation 501 (c) (3);

FJC Foundation 501 (c) (3)

In October 2008 several community members of the DVCC met to create the FJC Foundation, a non-profit corporation whose mission is to support the charitable and educational activities of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center in order to strengthen the lives of families affected by domestic violence. The foundation has 10 Board members:

- Resa Levy, President
- Susan Mize, Vice President
- Donna Rismiller, Secretary
- Dorothy Fait, Treasurer
- Catherine Leggett
- David Belkin
- Tom Degonia,
- Denise Bayerle
- David Cohen
- Marilyn Bagel.

The Foundation has been instrumental in raising community awareness and support of the FJC. Through the MCFJC Foundation, the Center has been the recipient of more than \$225,000 in cash and in-kind gifts of products and services delivered and promised. Special mention should be made to our lead gift donors, Verizon Wireless, Kaiser Permanente and Geico Philanthropic Foundation. Also to Montgomery Alliance, Women Who Care Ministries and the hundreds of donors and volunteer who gave the gifts of their time and talent, and especially to ArtSeen, June Linowitz and Ellen Belkin for their outstanding contribution in bringing the gift of art to the FJC, and to the attorneys who have offered their pro bono legal advice and services, to the volunteers who greeted clients at the FJC Intake Desk and to those who have provided the furnishings that so clearly helped to bring the welcoming atmosphere desired.

FJC Foundation Website

The Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation website is located at www.mcfjcfoundation.org/ it links the community to information about the FJC, the FJC Foundation Board, news releases about the FJC and sponsorship and volunteer opportunities.

3. Developing a pro-bono lawyer's initiative for domestic violence victims

Pro-bono Lawyers Initiative

In May 2009 letters to 545 Montgomery County attorneys were mailed inviting them to participate in the Pro-bono Lawyer's Initiative. Joining this project would signify that the attorney is committed to accepting pro-bono referrals for protective order, family law and criminal cases deemed to be retaliatory. Another option is for attorneys to accept pro-

bono or lo-bono referrals for family law cases, criminal defense or another area related to their practice.

The development of this program is ongoing. Free training pertaining to domestic violence case law will be available to all participating attorneys during the fall 2009. Representatives from the House of Ruth and Office of the State's Attorney will conduct the training.

4. Implementing a Kid's Camp program for child witnesses of domestic violence

Kid's Camp Program

Victim Service Committee members collaborated with the Montgomery County Department of Recreation and the Rockville City Recreation Department to establish a Kid's Camp Program for child witnesses of domestic violence. Children from the Betty Ann Krahne Center, Safe Start Program and Abused Persons Program were referred to participate in the Rockville Summer Playground Program and Fab Five Camp at no cost or at a significantly reduced cost. The Montgomery County Department of Recreation provided 10 slots for their Playground Program located at various slots throughout the county. For the summer of 2009 a total of 14 children were able to participate in the Kid's Camp Program.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Chair: Donna Rismiller

The Education and Outreach Committee has focused on 3 priorities this year:

1. Education and outreach;
2. Education and outreach to the youth in the county about healthy teen dating relationships; and
3. Education and outreach regarding FJC services to victims, private attorneys and the immigrant community.

The following is a summary of projects the committee has completed in 2008-2009 to meet these priorities:

1. Education and outreach:

Fatherhood Conference

On November 8, 2008 The Education and Outreach Committee, in partnership with numerous public and private agencies, hosted a successful conference for approximately 250 Montgomery County fathers. It was a wonderful day to celebrate the importance of a father's role in the lives of their children and to emphasize the importance to children of mutual respect between their parents. The conference effectively reached the general population in addition to "high promise" fathers who have additional challenges with fatherhood due to their own personal obstacles. The primary objective of the Fatherhood Conference was to encourage all dads to connect with their children, be available to their children and also responsible for providing for them. Research shows that children with involved fathers enjoy more positive outcomes in many domains, including self-esteem, school performance and social development.¹

Charles Mann, co-founder of the Good Samaritan Foundation, former Washington Redskin and advocate of responsible fatherhood kicked off the day as the keynote speaker. Participants then had the opportunity to attend workshops which were offered in both Spanish and English on a variety of topics including:

- Raising boys to be responsible men;
- The father's role in building the self-esteem of their daughters;
- Teen dads and new dads;
- Turning high risk children into high promise children;
- Financial management tools; and
- Healthy parenting and the art of communication.

In addition to the structured sessions the conference featured over 30 information tables where attendees were able to obtain information about county programs and resources.

¹ The National Fatherhood Clearinghouse website.

Conference participants could also take advantage of the Health Fair which offered free diabetes and cholesterol screenings for the first 100 participants. Free high blood pressure and vision tests were available for all.

Feedback on the conference was documented in individual participant surveys. Among the many positive responses attendees stated the following:

- "This conference made me feel reassured that I am making the right decisions in regard to my children and family."
- "I received a lot of useful information that I can use with my children and family."
- "This conference made me think- am I doing what I should be doing?"
- "There is no manual on how to be a Dad - this conference was enlightening and will help me to sharpen my skills - I will report back later as to my success in applying what I have learned."

The Fatherhood Conference was made possible through a collaborative effort with and among other agencies the Office of the Sheriff, Office of the State's Attorney, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission, Montgomery County Circuit Court, Montgomery County Public Schools, and Montgomery County Departments of Health & Human Services, Recreation, Economic Development, Correction & Rehabilitation and Maryland Division of Parole & Probation.

2. Education and outreach to the youth in the county about healthy teen dating relationships;

Healthy Teen Dating Curriculum

In the interest of domestic violence prevention the Education and Outreach Committee developed a Healthy Teen Dating Presentation geared to educate the county's secondary school students about healthy dating relationships. The program consists of a 30 minute PowerPoint presentation and is intended for middle school students, who are just entering dating relationships. However the presentation is also appropriate for high school students. The material in the presentation is a combination of three widely used and approved curricula: Liz Claiborne's Love Is Not Abuse, Break the Cycle and the CDC's Choose Respect.

The primary objectives identified for this presentation were:

- 1) To educate students on components of a healthy relationship
- 2) To help teens recognize abusive behaviors in dating relationships
- 3) To encourage self-help seeking behaviors if they find themselves in an abusive relationship
- 4) To provide intervention tips if they recognize that a friend is in an abusive relationship

To test the overall effectiveness and obtain feedback from the target population and educators on the presentation, a pilot project was implemented by staff from the County's Department of Health and Human Services and the Offices of the State's

Attorney and Sheriff in May 2009. Gaithersburg and Springbrook High Schools along with the Montgomery Village Middle School were the sites selected for the trial. During the Springbrook High School visit on May 26th the presentation was shown to over 130 students in 9th and 10th grade over the course of 6 class periods. The presenters also visited an ESOL class with approximately 20 students at Gaithersburg High School on May 28th. The ages of the ESOL students ranged from 15 to 20 years of age. While the students had some suggestions to enhance the videos and the design of the presentation, overall the students at both schools approved of the curriculum with 96.5% of them recommending it to their peers. Teachers overwhelmingly recognize the need for the program at their schools and would like the presentation to be shown during the next school year.

The Education and Outreach Committee members will make the necessary revisions to the presentation and plan to focus on ongoing outreach to the schools during the 2009-2010 school year.

Healthy Teen Dating Conference

Over 20 county agencies came together in June to begin planning for Choose Respect Montgomery, a teen dating conference in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month (Appendix C). The conference will take place on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at the Rockville Campus of Montgomery College. The conference will feature a performance by City at Peace, whose mission is to promote awareness of domestic violence among youth. Several workshop sessions for boys and girls ages of 12 to 18 on topics related to healthy teen dating behaviors, recognizing abuse in dating relationships and misuse of technology will occur throughout the day. Parents will participate in separate workshop sessions offered in English and Spanish regarding teen dating relationships.

A Teen Dating Public Service Announcement contest will also be launched in conjunction with the conference. The winners in the Spanish and English video division of the contest will be announced at the conclusion of the conference. The winning PSA will ultimately be submitted for broadcast on a local TV and/ or radio station.

3. Education and outreach regarding FJC services to victims, private attorneys and the immigrant community.

Bus Cards

New Bus Cards were designed to target domestic violence victims and promote awareness in the community of the newly opened FJC. The bus cards were produced in both English and Spanish. The Spanish translation was provided by certified court interpreters, Alexandra Douglas and Nieves Valez Costa, who generously volunteered their time to assist with the project. The posters were placed in at least 200 of the county's Ride-on buses. Additionally bus cards were distributed and displayed throughout county buildings and local retail establishments.

The bus cards are very colorful and include a photo of the FJC location and a photo of a mother and young child along with the phrase **"Providing Help for Hurting Families in a Safe and Comfortable Environment: The Montgomery County Family Justice**

Center". The location of the FJC, hours of operation, website address and services available at the center are all printed on the bus card (Appendices D & E). A prior bus card campaign promoted in 2008 to target abusers through the message **"Anger is False Power Get Help Call 240 777-4000"** continued to be posted in Ride-on buses into the spring of 2009. (Appendix F)

Outreach to Private Attorneys

Recognizing that many victims often seek assistance regarding domestic violence from their attorneys, the Education and Outreach Committee of the DVCC focused on promoting awareness of the FJC to private attorneys in Montgomery County. The first opportunity to accomplish this objective was on April 24, 2009, when several DVCC members staffed a table at Montgomery County's Law Day in their capacity as members of the FJC Foundation Board of Directors. This event is supported by the American Bar Association and is organized in many jurisdictions across the United States to bring attorneys together for a day of networking and presentations. With the event drawing approximately 500 local attorneys it was ideal for DVCC members to conduct outreach and provide information about the FJC at one single event. FJC brochures were distributed widely at Law Day and services available to domestic violence victims at the FJC were discussed and highlighted.

Domestic Violence Posters

The committee partnered with the Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control to distribute the final 150 multi-lingual domestic violence posters (Appendix G) to liquor licensees throughout the county. There was a particular concentration in distribution to the immigrant neighborhoods of Wheaton and Takoma Park. The licensees placed them in their establishments, often in their ladies' restrooms. These posters provide information to victims of domestic violence about services available to them without regard to their immigration status.

Public Service Announcements

Montgomery Municipal Cable Television, Channel 16 has begun to air the Public Service Announcement (PSA) in both English and Spanish. The PSA produced in 2007 is intended to increase domestic violence victims' awareness of 24 hour assistance through the Montgomery County Crisis Center that is available without regard to their immigration status.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chair: Laura Chase

The Legislative and Policy Planning Committee had 3 major initiatives in 2009:

1. Ongoing implementation and evaluation of the Lethality Assessment Protocol;
2. Coordination with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations and the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence on domestic violence legislation at the General Assembly; and
3. Modification of county bill establishing the DVCC by increasing the membership.

1. Ongoing implementation and evaluation of the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP)

Lethality Assessment and Protocol

In August 2008 the Montgomery County Department of Police, Office of the Sheriff and municipal police departments implemented LAP, a danger assessment tool for officers to utilize when they respond to domestic violence calls. Deputies in the Sheriff's Office also use the LAP in cases where the victim files for a protective order and there was no police intervention. The purpose of the Lethality Assessment Protocol is to help those victims at the greatest risk of harm to access domestic violence services.

The protocol requires officers to ask the victim of an intimate partner assault a series of 11 questions at the scene of an incident. If the victim answers in the affirmative to 4 of the questions or in the affirmative to one of the 3 "automatic trigger" questions, or if the officer has concerns based on his/her professional experience, the victim is screened into the protocol. The responding officer then advises the victim of the high danger assessment and will contact the Crisis Center hotline and attempt to connect the victim with a counselor for safety planning.

Patrol officers have embraced the LAP in Montgomery County. It provides them with a useful tool and direction when responding to often difficult domestic violence calls. Quarterly reports are prepared by participating Maryland jurisdictions which show the ratio between the number of victims who complete a LAP survey and talk with a crisis counselor.

The Family Crimes Division- Domestic Violence Unit (FCD-DVU) of the Montgomery County Police Department has maintained the records and collected all pertinent data from LAP surveys conducted by Montgomery County Police Department and Rockville and Gaithersburg City Police Departments. For the period August 1, 2008 to July 31, 2009, 1131 LAP surveys were completed by these law enforcement offices. Of the victims surveyed, 768 (68%) were considered high risk by either screening in "according to protocol" or based on officers' belief. Nearly three-quarters (564) of those high risk victims were put in direct contact with a counselor at the Abused Persons Program or the Crisis Center. An additional 43 victims who were willing and interested in speaking

with APP, but were unable to do so at the time, were provided with the program/contact information. They agreed to call APP at a later time or the following day.

LAP data were also collected from the Abused Persons Program to determine the number of domestic violence victims that followed up with counseling services whether it is for telephone crisis counseling, in-person safety planning or counseling sessions. The statistics indicate a good number have continued in counseling and/or working with APP victim advocates on safety planning and legal processes. Most of these clients would not have come to the program without this protocol.

Specific information about the victim's follow through for services is listed below in data compiled by APP for a period of 11 months, between August 2008 and June 30, 2009. It includes LAP referrals from all law enforcement agencies including MCPD, Sheriff's Office, Park Police and all Police Municipalities in Montgomery County.

- 671 Victims were screened as high danger by the county and municipal police departments and sheriff's office;
 - 89% of these high danger victims agreed to speak to the APP hotline counselor; and
 - 42% of these victims came into APP for services (at least one face-to-face meeting)
2. Coordination with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations and the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence on domestic violence legislation at the General Assembly

Legislative Updates

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council worked with the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence and the Office of Intergovernmental Relations in support of the 2009 domestic violence legislative agenda in the General Assembly in Annapolis. The following is a summary of domestic violence legislation that passed and will take effect October 1, 2009:

HB 845/SB 1049 Domestic Violence Awareness "Tween/Teen Dating Violence Education and Awareness

This bill requires the State Board of Education to develop and implement a program in the schools to educate students about dating violence.

HB 296/SB 267 Family Law Protective Orders Surrender of Firearms

This bill will require that a final protective order include a provision that respondent shall surrender to law enforcement any firearm in the respondent's possession and to refrain from the possession of any firearm for the duration of the protective order. The violation would be a misdemeanor.

HB302/SB268 Family Law Temporary Protective Orders Surrender of Firearms

This bill authorizes a Judge entering a temporary protective order to order a respondent to surrender to law enforcement authorities any firearm in the person's possession. A violation would be a misdemeanor.

HB98/SB601 Domestic Violence Temporary Protective Orders Extension

This provides for an increase in the period of time from thirty days to six months for a Judge to extend a temporary protective order to enable the order to be served upon the respondent.

3. Modification of county bill establishing the DVCC by increasing the membership

DVCC Membership

In May 2009 Bill 26-09, which sought to alter the membership of the DVCC by adding a 16th member, representing the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) Board of Education was introduced to the Montgomery County Council. The bill subsequently passed on June 30, 2009.

The Legislative and Policy Planning committee along with all DVCC members sought to fill a very recognizable gap in victim services and outreach through the introduction and support of this amendment in the charter. The DVCC recognizes the importance of projects that pertain to the youth in Montgomery County. Yet there was no representative on the board to facilitate the collaboration with the school system. The addition of a member representing the MCPS Board of Education will greatly enhance and create a formal connection between the DVCC and Montgomery County Public Schools. A copy of the DVCC bill 23-05 and subsequent bill 26-09 can be found in appendix H.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR

Recommendation #1: Collaboration among FJC agency partners, FJC Foundation and community volunteers for ongoing sustainability and effective operation of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center

The DVCC wishes to recognize the very important contributions and support of the County Council and the County Executive towards the establishment and operation of Montgomery County's Family Justice Center (FJC).

To date approximately 500 clients have received services at the FJC from onsite and off-site partners. The Family Justice Center Foundation 501(c) (3), established in October, 2008 as a non-profit corporation developed to support the activities of the FJC. Since its inception the FJC Foundation has grown in membership and now includes 10 board members. The creation of an advisory board to the foundation is also being planned.

The foundation, in less than a year has attained outstanding support and community awareness for the FJC. As a result of the foundation's efforts the center has received more than \$225,000.00 in cash and in-kind gifts. The foundation's fundraising has directly assisted with furnishing the children's play area, interview rooms and waiting area. Commitments from several local attorneys for pro bono representation along with food items and small gifts for children have also been abundantly provided by the foundation.

Additional essential support for the FJC has come from individuals in the community who have expressed interest in volunteering at the center. In July, 2009 ten volunteers completed training on the dynamics of domestic violence, its impact on children, protective orders, the criminal justice system, and the basic operational procedures of the FJC. Volunteers have since dedicated their time on a daily basis at the FJC staffing the Intake Desk. Some of the many tasks performed by volunteers include processing client intake, monitoring children in the play area and translating for clients who speak languages other than English.

The staff from the FJC in cooperation with members of the community presented a plan to implement the pilot program for video conferencing of temporary protective orders between the FJC and the courts. This project will be one of only two in the country.

Action Plan:

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and FJC partners will continue to collaborate with the FJC Foundation in order to sustain the operation of the center, increase awareness of domestic violence and help families maintain violence free homes.

The Family Justice Center staff, in conjunction with the judges of the District and Circuit Court, will implement a plan for providing videoconferencing for temporary protective

orders from the FJC in accordance with the administrative order signed by Chief Judge Robert M. Bell.

The FJC partner agencies will sustain the recruitment of qualified and diverse volunteers to assist with the daily operation of the FJC and with special events in the next year.

Recommendation #2 Collaboration support with County schools on more widespread implementation of the Healthy Teen Dating Curriculum

Data just released on June 10, 2009 by Teenage Research Unlimited (TRU) for Liz Claiborne and the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF) indicated that one in three teens in the United States report they experience threats of physical or sexual violence. This is an enormous increase over of the past 10 years when it was estimated that one in eight teens experienced physical or sexual violence. Almost one in two who are already involved in dating relationships report being controlled, threatened, and coerced to do things they did not want to do. Esta Soler, President of FVPF stated, “the poll shows a disconnect between what some parents think is happening with their teenage children and what teens are really experiencing.” Additionally, more than half the parents surveyed (58%) could not identify all the warning signs of abuse.¹ Technology has made teen dating abuse more pervasive as one in three teens who have been in a relationship report they have been text messaged 10, 20, 30 times an hour by a partner finding out where they are, what they are doing, or who they are with.²

Young teens known as tweens (those between the ages of 11-14) are not immune to dating violence. More than one in three 11-12 year olds say they have been in a dating relationship, two in five who have been in a relationship know friends who have been emotionally abused via technology such as a cell phone, instant message or social networking sites, one in five 13-14 year olds in relationships say they know friends and peers who have been struck in anger by a boyfriend or girlfriend and only half of tweens claim to know the warning signs of a bad / hurtful relationship.³ Adolescent victims of dating violence are more likely to engage in high-risk behaviors, including substance abuse, unhealthy weight control, sexually risky behavior, pregnancy and suicidal thoughts.⁴

Many states including Rhode Island and Nebraska responded to dating abuse trends and in 2008 recommended the incorporation of a teen dating violence curriculum in all schools. Maryland followed this year with House Bill 845 Tween/Teen Dating Violence Education and Awareness. It requires the State Board of Education to encourage county boards of education to incorporate specified lessons on dating violence into health curricula in order to educate students about dating violence.

The DVCC believes that early intervention will help prevent the devastating impact of dating violence and overall have a positive impact on these young lives. The DVCC

¹ Teenage Research Unlimited (TRU), Commissioned by Liz Claiborne, Inc. and the Family Violence Prevention Fund, June, 2009.

² Teenage Research Unlimited (TRU), Commissioned by Liz Claiborne, Inc., January, 2007.

³ Teenage Research Unlimited (TRU), Commissioned by Liz Claiborne, Inc., June, 2008.

⁴ Jay G. Silverman, Ph.D. et al., “Dating Violence against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk behavior, Pregnancy and Suicidality.” *Journal of the American Medical Association*. October 2001.

conducted a healthy teen dating pilot program in two high schools in May 2009. The curriculum focused on identifying healthy and unhealthy relationships, roles in dating relationships, self help seeking behaviors and provided dating violence resources, in addition to tips on speaking out to a peer about dating violence. A survey requesting feedback from all students who participated was distributed at the conclusion of the presentation. Overall the survey showed a positive response from teens with 97% of the students recommending that their peers view the program.

Action Plan:

The DVCC will continue to address this important issue of teen dating violence in the next year by coordinating with middle and high school principals, ESOL counselors and health educators to expose more students to the curriculum.

Recommendation #3 Increase Awareness and Expansion of Services for Child Witnesses of Domestic Violence

In 2004 the Safe Start counseling program was established through a Montgomery County Council initiative to address the traumatic impact of domestic violence on child witnesses. The program, by design, removes barriers for parent(s) seeking counseling for their children by offering counseling sessions at no cost and at locations convenient to the family. Direct services for the children are provided through a contract with Chesapeake Counseling Associates, LLC. The program is educational and aims to build resiliency in child witnesses of domestic violence as it helps them cope with topics such as conflict resolution, fears, safety planning, peer relations, self esteem and guilt reduction. Referrals for the program are processed through the Office of the Sheriff and can be initiated by any agency in Montgomery County. This includes law enforcement, schools, courts and social service agencies.

In the 5 years since the program began nearly 1800 children were referred to Safe Start for services. As expected, the majority of the referrals came from the Abused Persons Program and the Office of the Sheriff. Increased awareness of the program among other agencies is necessary in order to reach a larger base of children in need of this service. With the expansion of the DVCC membership to include the schools, the DVCC will be able to increase awareness of this service among school staff. Outreach to court personnel and other agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will also be explored.

This year the DVCC collaborated with the Montgomery Department of Recreation and Rockville City Department of Recreation to make available camp programs for children exposed to domestic violence. Fourteen children from the domestic violence shelter and Safe Start were able to attend camp programs at no cost.

Action Plan:

The DVCC will coordinate informational session for MCPS, court personnel and HHS staff on the Safe Start Program.

Further coordination will take place with local recreation departments to create additional camp slots for these children.

Recommendation # 4 Continuation of programs for outreach and education to the immigrant community on domestic violence issues

The Coordinating Council recognizes the need for education and outreach to members of the immigrant community who may be at higher risk for domestic violence-related crime and are less familiar with County resources and services. The DVCC is collaborating with various community partners to get the message out to this community about the resources available and that their immigration status will not matter when seeking services for their safety.

The DVCC will attempt to continue its bus card project which places bi-lingual bus cards containing information about the Family Justice Center on county Ride-On buses and numerous public locations throughout the county. Public Service Announcements, in both English and Spanish will also be aired periodically on Montgomery Municipal Cable Television, Channel 16 throughout the year.

Action Plan:

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council will continue to collaborate with community partners to provide outreach and education to immigrants through the distribution of Family Justice Center posters in immigrant neighborhoods, market areas, clinics, restaurants, recreational facilities, and other public places, and through placement of bus cards on as many of the county Ride-On buses as possible. FJC staff will coordinate with the Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships to engage leaders of the immigrant community and to seek their assistance in promoting the services at the FJC.

Recommendation #5 Review of Policies and Practices to Increase Offender Accountability


The DVCC reviewed current domestic violence offender supervision (primarily Pre-Trial Services and the Division of Parole and Probation) and counseling (Abused Persons Program Abuser Intervention Program) services. Research is confirming the usefulness of close supervision of offenders in civil and criminal matters in conjunction with specialized counseling. One focus area for the next year will be policies and practices for enhancing accountability of and services to domestic violence offenders.

Action Plan:

The DVCC will explore promising practices for increased offender accountability and consider the implementation of new programs or policy revisions.


Appendices

Appendix A



Community Partners

- Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
- Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office
- Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
 - Abused Persons Program
 - Child Welfare Services
 - Emergency Services
- Montgomery County Department of Police
- Montgomery County Commission for Women
- Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation
- Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships
- House of Ruth, Maryland
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, Inc. Immigration Legal Services
- STTAR Center – Counseling
- Maryland Department of Child Support Enforcement
- Safe Start Services for children exposed to domestic violence
- Interfaith Community Against Domestic Violence
- Child Assessment Center – Treehouse (off-site)
- Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation, Inc. – Non - Profit and Supporting Partner www.mcfjcfoundation.org



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need an appointment?
No. You can walk in for services.

Where can I park?
There is free garage parking on the Jefferson Street side, as well as street parking. The Center is also within walking distance from Rockville Metro Station.


Can I bring my children with me?
Yes. We have a specially designed play room and kitchen facilities for children.



May I bring a friend for support?
Yes. However, when you speak to one of the professional staff, your friend may be asked to wait in the reception area.

Will it cost me anything for legal services?
No. There are no fees for any services at the Montgomery County Family Justice Center.



Can I get Protective Order Services at the Family Justice Center?
Yes. Staff can assist you with filing your petition for protection.

Can I return for additional services?
Yes. We encourage you to take advantage of all appropriate services.








A community partnership providing help for hurting families

Montgomery County
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER
600 Jefferson Street
Rockville, Maryland 20852
240-773-0444
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/FJC
Crisis Line 24 Hour Assistance
240-777-4000

Family Justice.indd 1 3/7/2009 9:40:14 AM

About Us


The Montgomery County Family Justice Center is a comprehensive one stop shop for victims of family violence and their children. The center co-locates multiple agencies to provide coordinated advocacy, law enforcement, civil legal services and social services for wrap-around support for families. Your safety is our first priority. Our goal is to help you in a specially designed facility where you and your children can feel safe and comfortable.

Who Is Eligible?

Anyone who is experiencing or has experienced domestic violence is eligible to receive services. Children are welcome to use the child friendly environment while their parent is receiving services.

Available Services


- Safety Planning – staff at the Center will work with you on an individualized, comprehensive safety plan.
- Legal Advocacy – advocates can assist you in filing for a protective order or with criminal charges.
- Legal Representation for Civil Protective Orders – the House of Ruth has a staff of civil attorneys to represent you at a Protective Order hearing at no charge.
- Counseling for you and your children – you can meet with a counselor and make arrangements for further individual or group counseling services.
- Criminal Investigation – you can meet with a detective or prosecutor about possible criminal charges or to discuss a pending case.
- Immigration Consultation under Federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) – an attorney can meet with you in a confidential setting to explain the VAWA provisions to protect battered immigrants.
- Emergency Protective Orders – an advocate can assist you with filing your petition for protection.
- Shelter Placement – staff can assist you and your children in accessing a confidential shelter as part of your safety plan.
- Referral To Safe Havens for pets – if your pet needs shelter, you can receive information on how the Humane Society can help.
- Snacks and play room for your children to relax.
- Child Assessment Center (off site) – you can be referred to the Treehouse Child Assessment Center for services for your children if they have been hurt or witnessed domestic violence.
- Chaplaincy program – Chaplains will be available for spiritual support and guidance.



Fees

There are no fees for services at the Family Justice Center.


Location



The Family Justice Center is located at 600 Jefferson Street, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland (on Route 355, the intersection of Rockville Pike and Jefferson Street). The Family Justice Center is accessible by public transportation, the Rockville Metro Station, and is near the Rockville District and Circuit courts.

Hours

The Family Justice Center is open
Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
240-773-0444



Family Justice.indd 2 3/7/2009 9:40:12 AM

Appendix B



Socios De La Comunidad

- Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Montgomery
- Oficina del Fiscal del Condado de Montgomery
- Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos del Condado de Montgomery
 - Programa de Personas Maltratadas
 - Servicios de Bienestar de Niños
 - programas para familias
 - Servicios de Emergencia
- Departamento de Policía del Condado de Montgomery
- Departamento de Correcciones y Rehabilitaciones del Condado de Montgomery
- Comisión Para la Mujer del Condado de Montgomery
- Oficina del Condado de Montgomery Socios de la Comunidad
- Casa de Ruth, Maryland
- Caridades Ciudadanas de la Arquidiócesis de Washington, Inc. – Servicios Legales de Inmigración
- Centro STTAR: consejería para víctimas de traumas, incluyendo a niños
- Departamento de Servicios de Mantenimiento de Hijos Maryland
- Servicios Safe Start: consejería para niños expuestos a violencia doméstica
- La Comunidad Interreligiosa Contra Violencia Doméstica
- Centro de Evaluación de Niños-Tree House (fuera de sitio)
- Centro de Justicia Familiar del Condado de Montgomery Fundación, Inc. – Socio no lucrativo y Secundario www.mctjcfoundation.org

Preguntas Frecuentes

¿Necesito una cita?
No. Puede venir y recibir servicios.

¿Donde puedo estacionarme?
Hay estacionamiento de garaje gratuito en el lado de la calle Jefferson igual como hay estacionamiento en la calle. El centro también está dentro de distancia caminante de la estación Rockville Metro.

¿Puedo traer a mis hijos conmigo?
Si. Nosotros tenemos un cuarto especialmente diseñado para niños con juguetes y facilidades de cocina.

¿Puedo traer a un amigo/a para apoyo?
Si. Sin embargo cuando usted hable con alguien del personal pueden pedir que su amigo/a espere en el área de recepción.

¿Me costará algo para servicios legales?
No. No se cobra por los servicios en el Centro de Justicia Familiar del Condado de Montgomery.

¿Puedo obtener servicios para Órdenes de Protección en el Centro de Justicia Familiar?
Si. Nuestro personal puede asistirle en su solicitud para su petición de protección.


¿Puedo regresar para servicios adicionales?
Si. Aproveche de todos servicios apropiados.



Una asociación de la comunidad que proporciona ayuda para familias perjudicadas




CENTRO DE JUSTICIA FAMILIAR
del Condado de Montgomery
600 Jefferson Street
Rockville, Maryland 20852
240-773-0444
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/FJC
Crisis Line 24 Hour Assistance
240-777-4000



Acerca De Nosotros

El Centro de Justicia Familiar del Condado de Montgomery es una sola parada comprensiva para víctimas de violencia familiar y sus hijos. El centro tiene situado agencias múltiples para coordinar apoyo, aplicación de la ley, servicios legales civiles y servicios sociales de apoyo completo para familias. Su seguridad es nuestra primera prioridad. Nuestra meta es ayudarle a usted en un complejo específicamente diseñado para que usted y sus hijos puedan sentirse seguros y cómodos.

Quien Es Elegible?

Cualquiera que este sufriendo o ha sufrido violencia doméstica es elegible para recibir servicios. Niños son bienvenidos a usar el ambiente que es apropiado para ellos mientras sus padres estén recibiendo servicios.


Servicios Disponibles

- Planificación de seguridad- un personal del centro trabajará con usted en una planificación completa e individualizada de seguridad para usted.
- Apoyo Legal- un personal de apoyo le puede asistir en llenar una orden de protección o con cargos criminales.
- Representación legal para Peticiones de Orden de Protección Civiles – la Casa de Ruth (House of Ruth) tiene un personal de abogados civiles que le pueden representar en audiencias de Orden de Protección gratis.

- Consejería para usted y sus niños- usted puede reunirse con un consejero y pueden hacer preparativos para reunirse individualmente o en servicios de consejería en grupo.
- Investigaciones criminales- usted puede reunirse con un detective o un fiscal sobre la posibilidad de cargos criminales o platicar sobre un caso pendiente.
- Consultación Inmigratoria bajo la ley Contra la Violencia hacia la Mujer (VAWA)- un abogado puede reunirse con usted confidencialmente y explicarle las provisiones para proteger inmigrantes maltratadas.
- Órdenes de Protección de Emergencia – un personal de apoyo puede ayudarle en solicitar una petición de protección.
- Colocación de refugio- el personal puede ayudarle en acceder un refugio confidencial como parte de su plan de seguridad.
- Referir al programa de Asilo Seguro para Animales Domésticos (Safe Haven for Pets)- si su animal doméstico necesita refugio, usted puede recibir información sobre como la Sociedad Humana (Humane Society) le puede ayudar.
- Bocadillos y un cuarto de Juguetes para que sus niños puedan relajarse.
- Centro de Apoyo de Niño (Child Assessment Center) (situado fuera) usted puede ser referido al Tree House Centro de Evaluación de Niño para servicios para sus niños si les han hecho daño o fueron testigos de violencia doméstica.
- Programa de Capellanía- Capellanes estarán disponibles para apoyo espiritual y guía.

Cuotas

No se cobra por servicios en el Centro de Justicia Familiar.




Localización

El Centro de Justicia Familiar esta localizado en el 600 Jefferson Street, Salón 500, Rockville, Maryland (en la ruta 355, la intersección de Rockville Pike y Jefferson Street). El Centro de Justicia Familiar es accesible por transportación pública, la estación de Rockville Metro y esta cerca a la corte Distrito y la corte Circuito.

Horas

El Centro de Justicia Familiar esta abierto Lunes a Viernes de 8:30 de la mañana hasta la 5:00 de la tarde.
240-773-0444



Appendix C

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Choose Respect Montgomery

For Students in Grades 7-12 And Their Parents

Workshops for students will be available on topics related to healthy teen dating behaviors, recognizing abuse in dating relationships and misuse of technology.

Parents are welcome to participate in separate workshop sessions offered in English and Spanish regarding teen dating relationships.

To register, go to: www.chooserespectmontgomery.eventbrite.com

Saturday, November 14, 2009

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Rockville Campus Montgomery College Theatre Arts Building



For more information call
240 777-5573 or go to
www.montgomerycountymd.gov

Sponsored by the Domestic
Violence Coordinating Council
of Montgomery County in
collaboration with many
other county agencies
and organizations.



Opening act features a

**City at
Peace DC**
Performance!

Free Lunch!

Raffles!

Respect: Give it! Get it!

Appendix D

Providing Help for
Hurting Families in a Safe and
Comfortable Environment

The Montgomery County

Family Justice Center

If you or someone you know is a victim
of partner abuse and needs assistance there is free help available at one convenient location.

240-773-0444 ■ www.montgomerycountymd.gov/FJC

Available Services
Regardless of immigration status

- Safety Planning
- Legal Advocacy
- Legal Representation for Civil Protective Orders
- Counseling
- Criminal Investigation
- Immigration Consultation
- Emergency Protective Orders
- Shelter Placement
- Referral to Safe Haven for Pets

Family Justice Center
600 Jefferson Street, Suite 500
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Hours
The Family Justice Center is open
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
240-773-0444

After Hours Call the
Montgomery County Crisis Line
240-777-4000

Appendix E

Se proporciona ayuda para familias
afligidas en un ambiente seguro y cómodo

Centro de Justicia para Familias

Condado de Montgomery

Si usted o alguien que usted conoce es
víctima de abuso por su pareja y necesita ayuda, hay asesoría disponible en un lugar conveniente.

240-773-0444 ■ www.montgomerycountymd.gov/FJC



Servicios Disponibles

Sin tener en cuenta su estatus migratorio

- Cómo planear su seguridad
- Apoyo Legal
- Consejería
- Investigación Penal
- Consulta de Inmigración
- Colocación en albergues
- Ordenes de Protección de Emergencia
- Representación legal para Peticiones de Orden de Protección Civil
- Referencia para el programa de refugio para animales domésticos

Centro de Justicia para Familias

600 Jefferson Street, Suite 500
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Horario

De lunes a viernes de
8:30 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.
Después de las 5:00 p.m. llame
al 240-777-4000



Appendix G

Abuse has many victims

If you or someone you know needs help, call
Your immigration status is not important



El Abuso tiene muchas víctimas

Llame si usted o alguien que
usted conoce necesita ayuda
Su situación de inmigración no importa



L'abus fait de nombreuses victimes

Si vous ou quelqu'un que vous
connaissez a besoin d'assistance
Peu importe si vous êtes en règle avec les
services de l'immigration Américaine ou pas





暴力中有很多受害者。
若您或您認識的人需要協助，
請電 240-777-4000。
危機中心每天提供24小時服務。
一切保密。您的移民身份不會影響援助機會。



John J. McCarthy
Montgomery County State's Attorney



Raymond M. Kight, Sheriff
Montgomery County, Maryland



Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive

240-777-4000

Crisis Center - Confidential - Open 24 Hours

This message is brought to you by the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

Appendix H

Bill No. 23-05
 Concerning: Domestic Violence
Coordinating Council – Establishment
 Revised: 12/6/05 Draft No. 6
 Introduced: July 26, 2005
 Enacted: December 6, 2005
 Executive: December 16, 2005
 Effective: March 17, 2006
 Sunset Date: None
 Ch. 31, Laws of Mont. Co. 2005

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Councilmembers Silverman, Subin, Floreen, Praisner, and Denis

AN ACT to:

- (1) establish a Domestic Violence Coordinating Council with certain requirements regarding composition, terms, duties, voting, meetings, and staffing; and
- (2) generally amend the law governing coordination of County, State, federal, and community efforts relating to domestic violence, including prevention, intervention, treatment, law enforcement, prosecution, correctional, and advocacy efforts.

By adding

Montgomery County Code
 Chapter 2, Administration
 Section 2-59, Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Boldface | <i>Heading or defined term.</i> |
| <u>Underlining</u> | <i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i> |
| [Single boldface brackets] | <i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i> |
| <u>Double underlining</u> | <i>Added by amendment.</i> |
| [[Double boldface brackets]] | <i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i> |
| * * * | <i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i> |

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

Bill No. 23-05

1 **Section 1. Sec. 2-59 is added as follows:**

2 **2-59. Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.**

3 (a) Definition. In this section “Coordinating Council” means the Domestic

4 Violence Coordinating Council.

5 (b) Established. There is a Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

6 (c) Composition and terms of members.

7 (1) The Coordinating Council has 15 members.

8 (2) The County Council requests the following individuals to serve

9 as ex officio members of the Coordinating Council:

10 (A) The Administrative Judge for District 6 of the Maryland

11 District Court or designee of the Administrative Judge;

12 (B) The Administrative Judge for the Montgomery County

13 Circuit Court or designee of the Administrative Judge;

14 (C) The State’s Attorney for Montgomery County or designee

15 of the State’s Attorney;

16 (D) The Regional Director of the Division of Parole and

17 Probation, Maryland Department of Public Safety and

18 Corrections or designee of the Regional Director; and

19 (E) The County Sheriff or designee of the County Sheriff.

20 (3) Subject to confirmation by the County Council, the County

21 Executive should appoint the following individuals to serve as ex

22 officio members of the Coordinating Council:

23 (A) A member or designee of the County Council, selected by

24 the Council President;

25 (B) The Chief of Police or designee of the Chief of Police;

26 (C) The Director of the Department of Health and Human

27 Services or designee of the Director;

Bill No. 23-05

- 28 (D) The Executive Director of the Commission for Women or
 29 designee of the Executive Director; and
 30 (E) The Director of the Department of Correction and
 31 Rehabilitation or designee of the Director.
 32 (4) Subject to confirmation by the County Council, the County
 33 Executive must appoint the following individuals to serve 3-year
 34 terms on the Coordinating Council:
 35 (A) [[An]] 1 attorney with experience representing victims of
 36 domestic violence; and
 37 (B) [[3]] 4 members of the public with [[professional
 38 experience dealing with domestic violence issues; and]] a
 39 demonstrated interest in domestic violence issues,
 40 including at least one individual who is a former victim of
 41 domestic violence.
 42 [[C) A member of the public who is either a current or former
 43 victim of domestic violence.]]
 44 (d) Voting, officers, meetings, and compensation.
 45 (1) All members of the Coordinating Council are voting members.
 46 (2) The Coordinating Council must elect a chair and vice-chair from
 47 among its members to serve 1-year terms.
 48 (3) The Coordinating Council must meet at least 4 times each year.
 49 (4) Section 2-148 does not apply to members appointed under
 50 subsection (c)(2) and (3).
 51 (5) Except as provided in paragraph (6), a member must serve
 52 without compensation.
 53 (6) A member may request reimbursement for mileage and
 54 dependent care costs at rates established by the County.
 55 (e) Duties. The Coordinating Council must:

-3-

Bill No. 23-05

- 56 (1) Advise the County Executive, County Council, and [[department
57 directors]] Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission and its
58 members on policies, programs, and legislation necessary to
59 prevent domestic violence and help victims and their families;
- 60 (2) Promote and facilitate an effective community-wide response to
61 domestic violence, including a well-coordinated, multi-
62 disciplinary approach to all programs serving victims of domestic
63 violence and their families;
- 64 (3) Coordinate with the Maryland Network Against Domestic
65 Violence and all other County, State, federal, and non-
66 governmental agencies, committees, boards, commissions, and
67 organizations that operate, monitor, or coordinate domestic
68 violence programs or services in the County to maximize the
69 effectiveness of these programs and services;
- 70 (4) Develop recommendations to improve the coordination and
71 effectiveness of County, State, federal, and non-governmental
72 efforts regarding domestic violence, including prevention,
73 intervention, treatment, law enforcement, prosecution,
74 correctional, and advocacy efforts;
- 75 (5) Cooperate with the [[Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault
76 Program (VASAP)]] Abused Persons Program administered by
77 the Department of Health and Human Services and any other
78 relevant departments, agencies, committees, boards,
79 commissions, and organizations to periodically review the quality
80 and sufficiency of programs and facilities available to domestic
81 violence victims, offenders, and their children throughout the
82 County;

Bill No. 23-05


- 83 (6) Obtain and evaluate the findings and recommendations of the
 84 County's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team established
 85 under Title 4, Subtitle 7 of the Family Law Article;
- 86 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) Obtain and evaluate statistical data, reports, and other
 87 information related to domestic violence, including information
 88 regarding innovative efforts by other governmental and non-
 89 governmental entities, as necessary to implement the
 90 requirements of this section; and
- 91 ~~[(7)]~~ (8) Subject to subsection (f), advocate for policies or legislation
 92 at the County, State, and federal levels that would improve efforts
 93 to address domestic violence issues, including prevention,
 94 intervention, treatment, law enforcement, prosecution,
 95 correctional, and advocacy efforts.
- 96 (f) Advocacy. ~~[[When engaging]]~~ The Coordinating Council may not
 97 engage in any advocacy [[work]] efforts at the State or federal levels[[,
 98 the Coordinating Council must coordinate and cooperate with]] unless
 99 these efforts are approved by the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.
- 100 (g) Annual Report. ~~[[The]]~~ By September 15 each year, the Coordinating
 101 Council must submit to the County Executive and the County Council
 102 an annual report on its activities, findings, and recommendations.
- 103 (h) Staff.
- 104 (1) (A) If the County Sheriff agrees, the County Sheriff must
 105 provide the primary staff for the Coordinating Council.
- 106 (B) At the request of the County Sheriff, the State courts and
 107 agencies listed in subsection (c)(2) and the County
 108 agencies listed in subsection (c)(3) may provide
 109 additional staff assistance to the Coordinating Council.

121 **Sec. 2. Transition.** The County Executive may stagger the initial terms of the
122 members appointed under Section 2-59(c)(4) so that approximately one-third of the
123 terms of these members expire each year.

125 *Approved:*

126 _____
127 George L. Leventhal Dec. 8, 2005
128 George L. Leventhal, President, County Council Date

129 *Approved:*

130  12/16/15
Douglas M. Duncan, County Executive Date

131 *This is a correct copy of Council action.*

132 Linda M. Lauer 12/19/05
Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council Date

Expedited Bill No. 26-09
 Concerning: Domestic Violence
Coordinating Council – Membership
 Revised: 8/2/2009 Draft No. 1
 Introduced: June 9, 2009
 Enacted: June 30, 2009
 Executive: July 9, 2009
 Effective: July 9, 2009
 Sunset Date: None
 Ch. 20, Laws of Mont. Co. 2009

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By, Council President Andrews

AN EXPEDITED ACT to:

- (1) alter the membership on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council; and
- (2) generally amend the law establishing the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

By amending

Montgomery County Code
 Chapter 2, Administration
 Section 2-59

| | |
|---|--|
| Boldface | <i>Heading or defined term.</i> |
| <u>Underlining</u> | <i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i> |
| [Single boldface brackets] | <i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i> |
| <u>Double underlining</u> | <i>Added by amendment.</i> |
| [[Double boldface brackets]] | <i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i> |
| * * * | <i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i> |

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

EXPEDITED BILL NO. 26-09

Sec. 1. Section 2-59 is amended as follows:

2-59. Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

* * *

(c) Composition and terms of members.

(1) The Coordinating Council has [15] 16 members.

(2) The County Council requests the following individuals to serve as ex officio members of the Coordinating Council:

(A) The Administrative Judge for District 6 of the Maryland District Court or designee of the Administrative Judge;

(B) The Administrative Judge for the Montgomery County Circuit Court or designee of the Administrative Judge;

(C) The State's Attorney for Montgomery County or designee or the State's Attorney;

(D) The Regional Director of the Division of Parole and Probation, Maryland Department of Public Safety and Corrections or designee of the Regional Director; and

(E) The County Sheriff or designee of the County Sheriff; and

(F) The President of the County Board of Education or designee of the President.

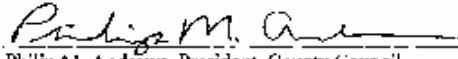
* * *

Sec. 2. Expedited Effective Date.

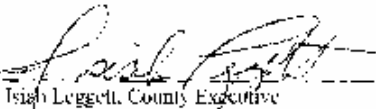
The Council declares that this legislation is necessary for the immediate protection of the public interest. This Act takes effect on the date on which it becomes law.

EXPEDITED Bill No. 26-09

25 *Approved:*

26  July 1, 2009
Philip M. Andrews, President, County Council Date

27 *Approved:*

28  July 9, 2009
Irish Leggett, County Executive Date

29 *This is a correct copy of Council action*

30  July 13, 2009
Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council Date